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Michael Perrin Denied Parole after 1984 Murder

District Attorney Jeffrey S. Rosell announced today that Michael Perrin, 58, was denied parole for the murder he committed in 1984. Perrin is currently serving a life sentence at Tehachapi State Prison

On the evening of April 20, 1984, Raul Lopez, 58 at the time, was walking home over a pedestrian bridge in Santa Cruz. He was confronted by transients Michael Perrin and Gary Gray, who attempted to rob him. Perrin and Gray then lifted the victim over the safety railing of the bridge and threw him to his death 30 feet below, onto a sand bank.

On June 22, 2016, Greg Peinado attended the parole hearing on behalf of the District Attorney's Office. He argued that Michael Perrin was unsuitable for parole as he would pose a significant risk to public safety if released from prison. The Parole Board agreed.

The Parole Board denied Perrin's release for several reasons. They found that the murder was especially heinous and that the inmate's prior criminal record and behavior while in prison demonstrated an unreasonable risk to the public should he be released. The Parole Board also took into consideration Perrin's lack of insight to the murder, his lack of remorse, and lack of programming while in prison. Perrin is eligible for parole again in 5 years.